

APPENDIX III

Heritage Report Appendices

These Comprise the Historic England Register Entries for nationally significant sites, the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust, List Entries for locally significant sites, the Historic Environment Record Entries and the Heritage At Risk Entries for the area covered by WGC5 in the 2016 Local Plan Consultation

1. Parks on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens in England of Special Historic Interest

1.1. Grade I: of national and international historic interest

Hatfield Park

An early C17 country mansion surrounded by extensive and complex gardens and park, created from the medieval parks of Hatfield. Robert Cecil's formal, early C17 gardens were created with input from designers including Thomas Chaundler and Salomon de Caus, and planted by John Tradescant the elder, at that time the head gardener. The gardens were landscaped in the C18, but then remodelled and extended in the C19 and C20.

NOTE This entry is a summary. Because of the complexity of this site, the standard Register entry format would convey neither an adequate description nor a satisfactory account of the development of the landscape. The user is advised to consult the references given below for more detailed accounts. Many Listed Buildings exist within the site, not all of which have been here referred to. Descriptions of these are to be found in the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest produced by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The bishops of Ely owned a house and park at Hatfield from at least the C13 (VCH). Hatfield Palace was built c 1480-97 by Cardinal John Morton, Bishop of Ely and minister of Henry VII, with formal garden compartments along the south side (ibid). Henry VIII acquired the estate during the Dissolution of the Monasteries and it was here that Queen Elizabeth was brought news of her accession in 1558. Her first three Councils were held in the hall of the Palace. The estate was exchanged in 1607 by James I for Robert Cecil's Theobalds Palace (Herts). Cecil (1563-1612, or first Earl of Salisbury 1605) pulled down three sides of the Palace, leaving the hall, and built a new house close by to the south-east, flanked by gardens to the west and east. The eastern gardens were overlooked by the family's private apartments, and were the main formal gardens, being walled and terraced in an Italianate form which was influential on other contemporary gardens. A vineyard was constructed within a walled enclosure in the park, at some distance from the house.

Cecil's gardener from Theobalds, Mountain Jennings, collaborated with Robert Bell, a London merchant and garden expert, in drawing up garden plans. One 'Bartholomew the gardener' agreed to act as a consultant initially, with Jennings and Bell; various other advisers were used during the course of construction. Thomas Chaundler laid out the splendid East Garden c 1610-11, with waterworks by a Dutchman, Simon Sturtevant. By late 1611 Chaundler had been replaced by Salomon de Caus who worked on the gardens until mid 1612. John Tradescant the elder became gardener at Hatfield at this time, supervising the planting of the gardens, the plants including rare specimens from abroad, some collected by Tradescant himself (Strong 1979). Lord Salisbury died deeply in debt in 1612, just before the house was finished.

The estate remained in the possession of the Cecils, the park being extended to the environs of Hatfield House in the late C18 by Emily, the first Marchioness, and the park and gardens landscaped (gardens guide 1989). Dury and Andrews' map shows the estate c 1766 with formal gardens around the House, and the vineyard enclosing formal features; Watts' engraving (1779) shows the park sweeping up to the walls of the House on the south and east sides. In the mid C19 James, the second Marquess, recreated terraces around the House, although these were built higher and wider than the C17 originals. He also laid out new parterres and a maze on the remains of the C17 work to the west and east of the House. In the late C20 Marjorie, the sixth Marchioness remade the gardens, creating several new features, including works in the East Gardens and two sunken parterres in the courtyard on the south front. The estate remains (1999) in private ownership.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Hatfield Park lies c 30km north of the centre of London, adjacent to the east side of the village of Hatfield, and incorporates several former medieval hunting parks. The c 7.5 sq km site is defined to the west largely by the

former Great North Road, now (1999) the A1000, apart from a section north-west of the House which is bounded by the village. The site is bounded to the north by the A414, to the east by agricultural land and woodland, and to the south-east by a lane linking the Great North Road with the settlement of Lower Woodside. The ground is gently undulating, with a plateau towards the west boundary, on which stand the House and Old Palace. The setting is rural to the east, with the new town of Hatfield adjacent to the west, and several villages to the south.

Hatfield House (1607-12, listed grade I) stands at the west edge of the park on a level plateau, approached via several drives and avenues. The present main approach (late C19) enters 500m north-west of the House, off the Great North Road, directly from the west side of Hatfield village, opposite the railway station. The broad gateway (late C19, listed grade II), set back off the road and flanked by low, curved brick walls, comprises two carriage entrances, each flanked by carved stone piers surmounted by stone lions and separated by an iron screen in similar style to the gates. In front of the screen stands a tall stone plinth supporting a seated statue of the third Marquess of Salisbury (G Frampton 1906, listed grade II), three times Prime Minister of Great Britain, who erected the gateway in order to provide access to the newly built station. From here the drive is carried 120m east on an embankment to a brick bridge which takes it high across the main village street, Park Street, to the entrance to the park. The drive continues 250m east to join the north drive at a point 300m north of the House. The north drive was, before the west entrance was built in the late C19, one of the principal approaches. The north drive, aligned on the north front of the House, enters the park from the Great North Road 1.2km north of the House, via a brick gatehouse. It extends south flanked initially by woodland, opening out into the park c 500m north of the House, from here continuing southwards flanked by a double avenue. Some 60m north of the House the drive enters the square, gravelled forecourt between terracotta ornamental posts (mid/late C19, listed grade II).

The forecourt (walls and gates 1845 and late C19, by the second and third Marquesses of Salisbury, listed grade II) is enclosed on three sides by ornamental red-brick and terracotta walls, with two further gateways, in similar style to the central gateway, at the west and east ends of the north wall. The fourth, south side is taken up by the north front of the House, at the centre of which a broad stone staircase (C19) leads up to the central front door. Beyond the west and east ends of the north front of the House, set into the south ends of the west and east forecourt walls respectively, stand two pairs of tall, brick and stone, polygonal gate piers with iron gates (listed as part of the forecourt), giving access to the West and East Gardens beyond.

The former south approach (the main C17 approach), is now (1999) disused. The course of the former south drive is aligned on the centre of the south front. The remaining southern section enters off the Great North Road at a lodge, 2km south of the House. The drive extends north through the wooded Millward's Park, crossing, 850m south of the House, a further avenue giving access from the Great North Road to the north-west and the Pepper Pot Lodges (C17, listed grade II) on Woodside Lane to the south-east. This avenue marks the former course of the Great North Road, before it was moved to the south-west side of Millward's Park in the C19. The south drive ends at the cross drive, its former course northwards being marked by a grass ride flanked by a broad avenue of lime trees. The ride terminates 60m south of the House at a further forecourt (pavilions C17, restored c 1845; gates and walls c 1845, listed grade II) enclosed by low brick and terracotta walls. The entrance at the centre of the south side is marked by an iron screen and gates flanked by four brick and stone piers. Single-storey brick and stone pavilions are set into the west and east walls. Within the forecourt a broad gravel drive, flanked by late C20 sunken parterres, leads to the carriage sweep on the south front, adjacent to a stone loggia in which is set the central south entrance. Several other drives also traverse the park.

A series of formal gardens, the West Gardens, extends from the west front, overlooked by the C19 west terrace. The Privy Garden, lying below the terrace and bounded by a lime walk, contains the West Parterre. To the west of the Privy Garden lies the lower Scented Garden, occupying the site of a former kitchen garden, with a raised walk running along the west side. The Wilderness Garden extends 350m south from these formal gardens, alongside the south avenue ride, incorporating the remains of C19 wooded pleasure grounds.

At the north-west corner of the West Gardens, 90m north-west of the House, stands the remains of the Old Palace (1480-97), overlooking to the east a garden made amongst the foundations of the three wings which were demolished in the early C17. A forecourt lies on the west side of the Old Palace, bounded to the north by the present stable yard and to the west by the churchyard of Hatfield parish church. A brick gatehouse at the north-west corner of the forecourt provides direct access from the village via Fore Street.

The East Gardens, a series of terraced gardens, lead down a slope from the east front, overlooked by the C19 east terrace. They occupy the site of the main area of early C17 gardens laid out for the first Earl of Salisbury, these having been largely rebuilt in the 1840s and restored in the late C20. A double flight of steps leads down from the east terrace to the east parterre, flanked to the north by a late C20 kitchen garden and to the south by an orchard and the Mount Garden. From the East Parterre a flight of steps leads down to the Maze Garden (maze 1840s, restored mid/late C20), and below this the Pool Garden, containing a swimming pool set in lawn and enclosed by clipped yew hedges. Beyond this to the east lies the New Pond and Wild Garden, an informal area of lawn and trees surrounding the irregularly shaped pond, the pond having been laid out during the initial garden works of the early C17.

Hatfield Park, surrounding the House to the south, east and north, is composed of several earlier parks, drawn together over successive centuries, including Middle Park and Innings Park. The central area surrounding the House and gardens is laid to pasture, with scattered trees, and contains several areas of woodland including Coombe Wood and Conduit Wood. The northern section, Home Park, is largely wooded, bounded to the north by the Hertford Road and bisected from west to east by the broadly curving Broadwater, made from the widened course of the River Lea. The Broadwater is straddled by the early C17 Vineyard, standing 1.2km north-east of the House within the Home Park Woodland. The rectangular Vineyard is surrounded by 4m high red-brick walls (early C17, listed grade II). Brick pavilions terminate the ends of the south wall in the southern half, with a Tudor-style cottage at the centre (these three listed with the walls), overlooking a series of earth terraces running down to the riverside. This section was laid out as a vineyard in the late C19 (OS 1879). The north half, formerly laid out as a kitchen garden (OS 1879), is bisected from west to east by a narrow arm of the river. It contains at the centre of the north side a late C18 Gothick-style pavilion, set into an angled recess at the centre of the wall.

The Lodge House (early C17, listed grade II), formerly the residence of the Ranger of Hatfield Park, stands towards the west side of Home Park, c 800m north-east of the House. The brick and timber-framed house stands within its own enclosure, surrounded by a garden wall with gate piers set into the south side (wall and piers early C18, listed grade II).

Millward's Park, the third (southern) main section of the park, lies south-west of the 2.2km long avenue linking Woodside Lane with the Great North Road. It is largely wooded, and crossed by woodland rides and the south drive, with to the north-west an open area of agricultural land enclosed on the west boundary with the Great North Road by a belt of trees.

The C19 kitchen gardens known as the New Gardens lie c 500m south-west of the House, surrounded by brick walls, with two main service compartments containing glasshouses adjacent to the north. The New Gardens, built to augment the kitchen gardens in the Vineyard in Home Park, have been superseded in the late C20 by a kitchen garden on the north side of the East Gardens, lying adjacent to the east side of the north forecourt.

REFERENCES

Note: There is a wealth of material about this site. The key references are cited below.

W Watts, *The Seats of the nobility and gentry in a collection of the most interesting and picturesque views* (1779), pl 53 *Country Life*, 1 (8 May 1897), pp 491-3; (15 May 1897), pp 519-22; 22 (14 December 1907), pp 872-83; 61 (12 March 1927), pp 390(7); (19 March 1927), pp 426-34; 175 (15 March 1984), pp 662-4; (22 March 1984), pp 770-2 *Victoria History of the County of Hertfordshire* 3, (1912), pp 91-100 R Strong, *The Renaissance Garden in England* (1979), pp 103-9 Hatfield House, guidebook (1984) *The Gardens at Hatfield House*, guidebook, (1989) M Batey and D Lambert, *The English Garden Tour* (1990), pp 40-6

Maps Hatfield estate map, 1607 (private collection) Dury and Andrews, *A topographical Map of Hartford-shire*, 1766 Tithe map for Hatfield parish, 1838 (Hertfordshire Record Office)

OS 6" to 1 mile: 1st edition published 1879 2nd edition published 1899 OS 25" to 1 mile: 2nd edition published 1898

Description written: June 1999 Register Inspector: SR Edited: October 2000

1.2. Grade II*: of exceptional national historic interest

Panshanger Park (part and also incorporating part of Cole Green Landscape)

A landscape park laid out from 1799, with advice from Humphry Repton, around a country house begun 1806-7 and demolished 1953-4. The park incorporated the site of an earlier house and park, improved in 1756 with advice from Lancelot Brown.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Around 1704 the mansion house called Fitzjohns was pulled down and replaced by Cole Green House, a seven-bay mansion built for William Cowper, first Earl Cowper (first Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, 1707-10, again 1714-18; d at Cole Green 1723). He occupied the house in 1711 and settled there upon his retirement in 1718. Fruit and formal flower gardens lay close to the house, closely attended by the Countess. In 1719 the Earl bought the adjacent Panshanger estate. By 1738 the park surrounding Cole Green House had been extended to c 50ha (Transactions 1955-7). Entries in the Cowper ledgers exist for work carried out by Lancelot Brown in 1755-6, 1761, and 1763-4, amounting to £618. Although it is not known exactly what he did, he seems to have created a ha-ha and carried out planting (ibid).

In 1797, the fifth Earl came of age and began improvements upon his Hertfordshire estates. Humphry Repton (1752-1818) produced a Red Book for the united Panshanger and Cole Green estates, suggesting where on the Panshanger estate a new house could be sited most advantageously, and how the River Mimram could be diverted and widened into a lake to take full advantage of the valley scenery around it (Red Book, HRO). This was part of a larger scheme to landscape the Earl's estates along the River Mimram valley, including Tewin Water (qv) for which a Red Book was also produced in the same year, and where his suggestions were largely carried out, and Digswell, which was dropped from the scheme at an early stage. Repton intended that each estate in the Mimram valley within Cowper's possession should be given 'a degree of extent and consequence which it could not boast exclusive of the others, and while each possesses its independent privacy and seclusion, their united lawns will, by extending thro' the whole valley enrich the general face of the country' (Tewin Water Red Book, 1799, HRO).

Repton seems to have taken little part in the implementation of the suggestions, which were instead supervised by the Earl until his death in 1837. Planting began in 1799, continuing over several years, and Cole Green House was pulled down in 1801/2. The enclosure of Hertingfordbury parish in 1801 meant that the park could be substantially enlarged, and six miles of public rights of way were diverted around it (Transactions 1955(7)). Panshanger House, modified from Repton's suggestions, was largely built 1806-9 and the Earl occupied it in 1811. After the fifth Earl's death his wife continued to manage Panshanger until 1867, she having remarried, to Lord Palmerston. Following her death the estate was managed until 1913 by the seventh Earl's wife, Katrine, who supervised the addition of formal garden features around the house.

After the First World War the estate deteriorated, and Lord Desborough, upon whom it had devolved, sold 4000 acres (c 1666ha) of it in 1919. The estate was finally broken up and sold out of the family in 1953, and by 1954 the house had been demolished. The park is now (1999) owned by a gravel extraction company.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Panshanger lies 2km west of the centre of Hertford, flanked to the east by the outer suburbs of Hertford and to the west by the outer suburbs of Welwyn Garden City. The c 350ha park is bounded to the north by the B1000 road linking Hertford and Digswell Water, to the west by the lane linking Poplars Green with Cole Green, and to the south largely by the C20 A414 dual carriageway linking Hertford with the A1(M). At the south-west corner the park is bounded by Cole Green settlement and village green. The land is undulating, with several high points in the south-west of the park where the former Cole Green House and its park lay, but the dominant feature is the broad River Mimram valley which bisects the site, the river running from north-west to south-east. Plateaux extend north and south from the valley sides. The setting is largely rural, with the extremities of Hertford and Welwyn Garden City close by to the east and west, and to the west the Panshanger Aerodrome. The A414 slices through the south-west corner of the park, effectively detaching an area of woodland which gives access from the South Lodge. Here, west of the Lodge and outside the area here registered, stands Cole Green House and associated outbuildings (C18, C19, listed grade II), the house having been rebuilt by the fifth Earl in the early C19 on a new site further to the south, as a dower house for Panshanger.

Tewin Water landscape park (qv) lies 2km to the north-west, laid out after 1799 to designs by Humphry Repton for the fifth Earl, and connected to Panshanger by the River Mimram.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The surviving drive system was devised when the park was laid out during the early C19.

The main, north entrance lies 400m north-north-east of the site of Panshanger House, giving access from the A1000 from Hertford and Tewin. The entrance is marked by the two-storey, white-painted North Lodge in Tudor style, standing adjacent to white-painted gate piers, slightly set back off the road, flanking the drive. From here the drive extends through the north park south-west to the site of the house, passing through a belt of trees and across what was formerly an open lawn, before reaching the open remains of a formerly gravelled forecourt on the north side of the site of the house. A spur off the north drive 200m from the house leads south-west to the south side of the stable block standing 150m north of the site of the house.

Three further drives cross the park, now (1999) disused, except for access within the estate, and lost in parts. The west drive enters from Poplars Green, 1km west of the site of the house, at West Lodge, a single-storey brick cottage in Tudor style. From here the drive formerly passed through a belt of trees into parkland, descending into the river valley to the Carriage Bridge, a brick bridge carrying the drive eastwards across the River Mimram. From here the drive curves north-east (this section extant, 1999) up the hillside to arrive at the carriage sweep on the site of the north front.

The south drive enters 1.75km south-west of the house, at South Lodge (c 1830-40, listed grade II). This single-storey brick lodge, in Tudor style, stands 100m back off the main road through Cole Green, at the north edge of the village green. The entrance to the drive is marked by a pair of octagonal stone piers supporting iron gates, with a small brick gatehouse standing opposite the lodge (c 1830-40, listed grade II). From here the remains of a track, at this point following the course of a former public road stopped up c 1800, leads north through the undulating ground of the south-west corner of the park. Having passed through woodland, then beneath the A414, it runs between two high, open areas of ground, both having been quarried and their levels reinstated with landfill. That to the west appears to have been the site of the former Cole Green House and its surrounding landscape. The track continues northwards, descending into the river valley to join the west drive at the west side of the Carriage Bridge.

The east, and longest drive formerly entered the park c 1.8km east-south-east of the house at the East Lodge (outside registered area), giving access from Hertford and Hertingfordbury. The white-painted, Tudor-style lodge (much extended), was detached from the park by the construction of a spur road (mid C20) off the A414 leading north to the A1000. The remains of the drive lead west from the spur road along the south edge of the wooded plateau, overlooking the open valley below to the south. Some 700m south-east of the site of the house the drive curves north-west across the wooded plateau, to join the north drive 150m from the house.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING Panshanger House (William Atkinson 1806-11, demolished 1953-4) was built on the site of an earlier dwelling and stood in the northern half of the park, at the edge of the north plateau, overlooking the broad River Mimram valley below to the south. It was of two storeys, built in Romantic Gothick style with crenellated parapets, turrets, and several squat towers breaking up the facades (CL). The entrance front lay on the north side, overlooking a level lawn planted with scattered trees, whilst the south, garden front overlooked a broad, open sweep of parkland leading down to Repton's Broad Water in the Mimram valley, with distant views to countryside beyond the park to the south (OS). Almost nothing of the house survives except possibly the foundations, and the site is overgrown (1999).

The brick-built stables (c 1856, now converted to office accommodation, listed grade II) stand north of the site of the house, surrounding a square stable yard on three sides, the fourth, south side being closed by a brick wall with a central gateway. Adjacent to the north lies a farmyard, with brick yard walls, stock pens and outbuildings.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS Panshanger House formerly stood within two wings of enclosed pleasure grounds which extended south-east down the valley side to Garden Wood, and west along the plateau to Poplars Grove. The largely earthwork remains of the formal garden features flank the site of the house to west and east. East of the house site lie the remains of a level, open lawn, formerly bounded to the east by a brick wall (traces of which remain), divided from the site of the house by an area of scrub. This contains the basin of a pool and fountain, formerly aligned on the centre of the east front, which marked the intersection of two paths in cruciform pattern. The basin is surrounded by a ring of overgrown box plants, with specimen yews scattered in the surrounding scrub, together with several mature cedars and pines. Formerly this area and the south terrace were graced by a group of marble vases (P van Bauscheit 1714) brought from the old Cole Green house (CL 1936).

West of the remains of the house lie the remains of two formal garden areas, formerly connected to the east gardens via a terrace along the south front. An enclosure adjacent to the west side of the house site contains a large, south-facing orangery (c 1856 for seventh Earl Cowper, listed grade II), of white brick with terracotta dressings in Classical style. It has lost its roof and windows but the main structure remains. South-east of this, the orangery is linked by a brick wall to a smaller, west-facing conservatory in similar style. Formerly, the orangery overlooked a formal garden.

West of the orangery garden lay a late C19, formal, enclosed garden (OS 1898; 1923; CL 1899). At the centre stood a sundial, with a path north to a small garden house, and to the south a central sunken terrace flanked by two fountains. The site of the sundial is surrounded by a ring of mature yews (formerly clipped as a hedge), and

the sunk area to the south remains. West of this, in the pleasure ground leading to Poplars Grove, stands the Panshanger Oak, a very large, single oak tree, possibly over 600 years old and remaining in good condition.

In the C19 and C20, up to 1914, the gardens were kept to a very high standard, with ornamental areas of great intricacy including the Sunken Garden (part of the south terrace, surrounded by a balustrade), the Rose Garden, the Dairy Garden, and the Box Garden (overlooked by the east front) (CL 1899).

PARK The park is divided into three sections, such that the higher ground of the north and south parks is divided by the Mimram valley.

The north park, occupying the northern plateau, is laid partly to open pasture containing some clumps and single trees flanking the north drive, bounded along the road to the north by a belt containing exotic species including Wellingtonias. Woodland extends east from the open pasture, including Evergreen Wood and Lady Hughes's Wood. Gravel extraction is presently (1999) carried out in areas of this woodland. The plateau edge overlooks the valley to the south and north-facing valley side beyond, with views south-east towards Hertingfordbury and the church.

The Mimram valley is dominated by Repton's Broad Water, a diversion of the Mimram northwards, dammed to form a sinuous sheet of water overlooked to the north by the site of the house and gardens, and from the surrounding valley sides. The Broad Water is fed by the Mimram, entering the park from Marden Hill Park to the north-west, and divided into two lakes by an island lying 300m south of the site of the house, which disguises a weir and sluices. The river is crossed by several footbridges, including two brick bridges south-west of the site of the house. Riverside Cottage (1755-63, listed grade II) stands in the valley bottom, 700m south-east of the site of the house on the north side of the river. It may have been constructed as part of Brown's work for the second Earl Cowper, and was altered in Picturesque style during the works of the early C19. The Mimram leaves the park close to Hertingfordbury, 650m south-east of the site of the house. The valley is laid largely to pasture, with occasional parkland trees.

The south park is laid largely to woodland rising up the valley side and occupying the plateau, except for the undulating south-west corner which is open and contains the site of the former Cole Green House and its park. The site of Cole Green House and its gardens may lie east of the present kitchen garden, in which case any remains have probably been lost to C20 gravel extraction and subsequent landfill works. The remains of an oak avenue run south of this however, from west to east across the south drive, and are aligned at the west end on an area south of the kitchen garden which has not been disturbed; this may alternatively be the site of the former Cole Green House.

KITCHEN GARDEN The octagonal, red-brick kitchen garden (early C18, probably for the first Earl Cowper, listed grade II), now laid to lawn, stands 1.5km south-west of the site of Panshanger House, close to the site of the former Cole Green House. The garden is entered via two large, arched and pedimented gateways in the west and east sides, with further smaller pedestrian gateways in the other sides. Adjacent to the south-east stands the two-storey, red-brick Keeper's Cottage (early C18, listed grade II), a gardener's house extended in the early to mid C19. In the later C19 the kitchen garden was surrounded by an outer enclosure, with a service yard to the north, but these areas are now (1999) open.

REFERENCES

Country Life, 6 (12 August 1899), pp 176-82; 79 (11 January 1936), pp 38-44; 151 (19 April 1972), pp 1178-9
Trans East Herts Archaeol Soc 14 pt 1, (1955-7), pp 42-58 D Stroud, Humphry Repton (1962), pp 101, 108-9 D Stroud, Capability Brown (1975), pp 220-1 G Carter et al, Humphry Repton (1982), p 154

Maps The Estate of William Cowper ... containing certain Farms, Tenements, Woods and Lands ... Surveyed and Drawn by John Halsey, c 1703 (redrawn and published in Transactions 1955-7) A Map of lands belonging to the manor of Panshanger, possession of the Rt Honble Wm Earl Cowper ... ,1719 (Hertfordshire Record Office) Dury and Andrews, A topographical Map of Hartford-shire, 1766 A Bryant, The County of Hertford, 1822 Tithe map for Hertingfordbury parish, 1838 (Hertfordshire Record Office)

OS 6" to 1 mile: 1st edition published 1884 2nd edition published 1899 OS 25" to 1 mile: 2nd edition published 1898 3rd edition published 1923

Archival items H Repton, Red Book for Panshanger, 1799 (D/EP P21A), (Hertfordshire Record Office)

Description written: February 2000 Register Inspector: SR Edited: October 2000

1.3 Grade II: of national importance

1.3.1 Tewin Water

A late C18 landscape and pleasure grounds to designs by Humphry Repton, surrounding a late C18 country house.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The manor of Tewin was bought by James Fleet in 1714, to whose widow it passed on his death in 1733. Mrs Fleet became Lady Cathcart upon marriage to her third husband, Charles, eighth Lord Cathcart. On her death in 1789, the manor passed to William, third Earl Cowper, and from 1791 to 1797 the property was let to a relation by marriage, Lord John Townsend. An estate map of c 1785-9 (HRO) shows the layout of the parcels of land around the house at that time, including a 40 acre (c 16ha) paddock called The Warren, which Lady Cathcart labelled the park, together with a 7 acre (c 3ha) garden lying adjacent. In 1797 Tewin Water house was demolished and rebuilt in Neoclassical style by its occupant, Henry Cowper, a relation of the owner, the fifth Earl Cowper who came of age in that year.

In 1799 the fifth Earl engaged Humphry Repton (1752-1818) to improve his estates running through the River Mimram valley in Hertfordshire, including Tewin Water, Panshanger and Cole Green (qqv), and Digswell, although the latter was dropped from the scheme at an early stage. Repton produced a Red Book for the Tewin Water estate, with suggestions for improving the landscape, entailing the creation of a 'really imposing expanse of water' from the River Mimram which was to be widened into a lake to take full advantage of the valley scenery around it (Red Book 1799, HRO). As part of the larger scheme to landscape the Earl's estates along the river valley, a Red Book was also produced for the Panshanger and Cole Green estates in the same year. Repton intended that each estate in the Mimram valley within Earl Cowper's possession should be given 'a degree of extent and consequence which it could not boast exclusive of the others, and while each possesses its independent privacy and seclusion, their united lawns will, by extending thro' the whole valley, enrich the general face of the country' (ibid).

Following Henry Cowper's death in 1840 the house at Tewin Water was let to a series of tenants, including the Earl of Uxbridge, and from 1892 to 1897 the third Earl of Limerick. In 1902 Alfred Beit, a diamond millionaire, acquired the estate, extending the house and adding formal elements to the gardens. His brother Sir Otto Beit inherited the house in 1906, and following his own death in 1936, his widow lived in the house until 1946. During the late 1940s and 1950s the estate was sold into divided ownership, and the parkland passed between various owners, during which time much of the parkland timber was felled. The house was a school from 1950 until the late 1990s, subsequently being acquired for conversion into multiple domestic units (1999), with further houses to be built close by.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Tewin Water lies 2km north-east of the centre of Welwyn Garden City, by the suburbs of which it is flanked to the south-west. The c 77ha park is bounded to the south-west largely by the B1000 road linking Hertford and Digswell Water, and to the north and east by agricultural land and woodland, the east boundary being marked by Churchfield Road which is carried over the River Mimram by a C19 bridge. A bridge in similar style carries the B1000 across the river at the north-west tip of the park, in the village of Digswell Water. The south-west half of the site largely occupies the flood plain of the valley, whilst the north-east half of the park rises up the hillside. The north-east hillside is bisected by a valley, running north-east from close to the house and stables, in which Dawley Plantation extends beyond the area here registered to Dawley Wood. The setting is partly agricultural, with the villages of Digswell Water and High Welwyn adjacent to the north-west, and the suburban development of Welwyn Garden City close by to the south-west. Views extend south-west from the hillside in the north-east half of the park towards Welwyn Garden City, and east along the Mimram valley.

Panshanger landscape park (qv) lies 2km to the south-east, laid out after 1799 to designs by Humphry Repton for the fifth Earl Cowper, and connected to Tewin Water by the River Mimram.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The main entrance to the estate lies 1km north-west of the house, at the point where the villages of High Welwyn and Digswell Water meet, off the High Welwyn lane connecting the two, which leads north from the B1000. The rendered, two-storey Digswell lodge (late C19/early C20) marks the entrance of the north-west drive off the High Welwyn lane. From here the drive curves south-east through the park alongside the River Mimram for 300m before the river moves further to the south. The drive continues south-east through the park, along the bottom of the north-east hillside, passing alongside the north boundary of the remains of the former walled kitchen garden lying 50m north-west of the house. Some 50m north of the house, close to the north entrance of the stable yard, the drive turns south along the west side of an open, level lawn which is bounded to the west by the stable yard and house, and on the other sides by mature trees, with the river running along its south side. The drive arrives at a carriage sweep by the main entrance on the east front of the house, overlooking the lawn.

The former east drive, now a farm track and partly lost, enters the site 700m south-east of the house, off Churchfield Road, extending north-west through the park, entering Home Wood 500m south-east of the house. The track curves through Home Wood, joining the north-west drive where it turns south to the east front of the house. Formerly (OS C19/early C20) a further arm of this drive entered at Tewin Lodge, standing 650m south-east of the house adjacent to where the river leaves the site, and built in similar style to the Digswell lodge in the late C19 or early C20. The former southern arm of the east drive curved north and west, meeting the northern arm 500m south-east of the house, the two continuing as one beyond this through Home Wood to the house.

Until the 1790s (Dury and Andrews, 1766; Map of Tewin c 1785-9, showing roads before and after alteration, HRO) the main Digswell Water to Hertford road ran closer to, and roughly parallel with the course of the river. The main entrance to the Tewin Water estate was off this road to the south of the house, a short drive crossing the river to approach the east front of the house directly from the south. Repton in his Red Book (1799) proposed that the main drive should enter from the Hertford end of the newly enlarged estate, at Tewin Lodge, flanked by two spinneys of trees. The drive was to curve north-west across the park, with an uninterrupted view of the lake and river to the south-west, passing close to the bank of the river before curving around the newly altered course of the river, to arrive at the east front of the house from the north. The drive was actually built further away from the river bank than Repton had proposed, and by the 1830s the eastern spur had been constructed, although at that time there was no sign of Home Wood which was to enclose the west half of the drive by the late C19 (Tewin parish Tithe map, 1838; OS C19). The south-east drive gave good views of the east front of the house across the park.

In his Red Book Repton also proposed that the north-west drive should enter the park c 700m north-west of the house, off the newly straightened Digswell Water to Hertford road, between two spinneys of trees. The drive was to emerge into the park to cross the river, curving east, and passing at some distance north of the kitchen garden, from which it would have been screened by a plantation which would have encircled the kitchen garden. A picturesque, single-storey rendered lodge (outside the area here registered) presently stands 650m north-west of the house, possibly marking the former north-west entrance to the park, if this was ever constructed. By the 1820s (Digswell parish Tithe map, 1822) the north-west entrance stood in its present situation, joined to the original course of the drive.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING Tewin Water house (rebuilt and remodelled 1790s, listed grade II) stands at the centre of the site on the low ground of the flood plain, between the River Mimram and a sharp rise in the ground to the north-east. The rectangular, two-storey, stuccoed brick house was rebuilt and modified in the 1790s in Greek Revival style, and altered and extended in the 1890s and 1900s. The entrance front lies on the east side, with garden entrances to the south and west. Formerly the house enjoyed largely uninterrupted views of the river to the east, south-west and south (as Repton had intended), before the banks were obscured by tree growth. Attached to the north side of the house lies the narrow, rectangular stable yard, entered from the north side off the north-west drive, with the former stable block (converted to school accommodation) on the west side of the yard.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS The gardens and pleasure grounds occupy level ground along the north bank of the Mimram, and extend c 400m west from the house. An open lawn extends from the west front, an area close to the house being laid to tarmac. The lawn is flanked by trees to north and south, including several large plane trees close to the river, with a range of former school buildings (to be replaced with houses, 1999) extending west from the house along the north side of the lawn. At the west end of the lawn, which is bounded by a footpath, a small copse stands next to the river, close to an artificial stone cascade crossed by a wooden footbridge which carries the footpath south of the river. An overgrown area of former garden lies between the south front and the river.

Repton proposed an informal lawn west of the house, separated from the river by a serpentine path close to the bank which led to the crossing at the west end of the lawn. He suggested that a classical garden building enclosing a seat should be sited close to the west boundary of the lawn. The lawn was to be screened from the kitchen gardens to the north by a belt of trees. At the east end the lawn would overlook the park south of the river, the view being stopped by a thick belt of trees on the south boundary adjacent to the road where he suggested a classical rotunda should be sited as an eyecatcher. Much of Repton's layout proposal was acted upon, although it is uncertain whether the two garden buildings were constructed. By the late C19 (OS 1884) a formal parterre had been added adjacent to the west front, and the lawn extended from the south front to the river, with the riverside path along the south edge of the lawn occupying the north bank. The pleasure grounds had been extended 75m beyond the footpath along the north bank to encompass two islands.

PARK The park, largely enclosed by belts of trees, surrounds the house and pleasure grounds, and is divided into two unequal halves by the River Mimram. The river enters the site at the north-west corner, extending in serpentine fashion south-east through the valley, passing close to the south front of the house, before opening out at the south corner of the park into a lake (somewhat silted up, 1999) and leaving the park close by at the south-east corner. The north-east half of the park is largely laid to open arable, with several paddocks laid to pasture between the river and the north-west drive. The park south of the river contains many mature specimen

trees in pasture, particularly to the south and west of the house. Home Wood appears to have been planted in the mid to late C19, if not at the time of Repton's major landscaping, and is presently (late C20) significantly smaller than its early C20 size (OS 1925). An icehouse may still survive in the wood 150m north of the house (OS C19). A group of several C20 houses stands c 100m north-east of the house, towards the west edge of Home Wood, close to the north side of the former east drive.

In the late C18 (Dury and Andrews, 1766) the park occupied less than half its present area, with avenues extending north and east from the house. Repton described the 'advantages of the situation' at Tewin Water, including 'a copious supply of beautifully coloured water, and such an extent of park without mixture of alien property that the boundary is no where obtrusive' (Red Book, 1799). To Repton the aspect was the most important question, that to the south-east being 'the best of all possible aspects'. He proposed extending the park to west, south and east, and breaking up the planting of avenues east of the house, which he felt were incongruous with the recently remodelled house. The house was to be clearly visible from the park, from his suggested approach from the south-east across the newly carved sweeping curve of the river, as was shown in Neale's view of 1818. The house was also to be prominent in the views from the park south of the river, where the rotunda was proposed at the top of the slope close to the south boundary, backed by a belt of trees.

KITCHEN GARDEN The remains of the former kitchen gardens lie 50m north-west of the house, marked chiefly by a red-brick wall, broken in places by gateways. The wall runs parallel with the north-west drive, from which it is separated at the west end by an open area of rough lawn planted with young specimen trees, and at the east end by (1999) an overgrown area. These areas formerly contained the north half of the kitchen garden. A further area south of the wall, partly occupied by school buildings and a swimming pool, was also formerly laid to kitchen garden, at which time it was separated from the main ornamental lawn to the south by a belt of trees, some mature specimens of which survive. Repton's plan (Red Book, 1799) showed his proposals for the whole kitchen garden, which were partly carried out (OS C19).

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Description written: August 1999 Register Inspector: SR Edited: October 2000

1.3.2 Goldings

A C19 park and pleasure grounds contemporary with the 1870s Tudor-style country mansion. Elements from the C18 survive in the landscape.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The Hall family owned the estate from the late C17 until it was sold in 1770. A house, surrounded by farmland, seems to have been built c 1700 by Thomas Hall, during his ownership from 1695 to 1748. When the property was sold in 1770 the particulars described 'a large and elegant mansion house built on arches with three fronts and farm of 210 acres' (quoted in HCS Newsletter 1978). A garden and meadows adjoined the house. No park existed, but the particulars suggested that the farm could be converted into one.

Following several owners after 1770, Robert Smith, a wealthy banker, inherited the estate c 1861. Smith demolished the old house c 1870 and built the present mansion further north, up the hillside, with a commanding view south across the estate to Hertford. He carried out landscaping work to the park and enlarged it. Smith's son Reginald inherited the estate in 1894 and sold it to Dr Barnardo's Homes in 1921. In 1969 it was sold to Hertfordshire County Council, and has since (late 1990s) been sold on for conversion into residential units. The southern part of the site is in divided ownership.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Goldings lies 4km north-west of Hertford, on the southern edge of Waterford village. The c 100ha site is situated on a south-facing slope of a range of low hills north of Hertford. It is bounded to the east by the busy A602 North Road from Hertford to Stevenage, to the south and west by Bramfield Road, and to the north by Waterford village and land used for mineral extraction. The setting is largely agricultural.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The main entrance to the site is from North Road, 500m south-east of the house, at the east end of the east drive. On the north side of the entrance is the single-storey, brick and half-timbered, Tudor-style Goldings Lodge (George Devey 1870, listed grade II), now with a tiled roof but originally thatched. The drive is sunk between banks on either side as it descends to the water meadows, with mature conifers on the banks. These conifers are part of the south park belt which runs adjacent to North Road. The east drive curves north-west, crossing the Mole Wood mill race via a brick bridge with cast-iron balustrade (1869, listed grade II). Some 10m north-west of this bridge the drive crosses the River Beane via a bridge of red and yellow brick (1869, listed grade II). The drive then traverses the water meadows on a causeway before crossing a stream at the head of Goldings Canal via a similar bridge (1869, listed grade II). This group of three bridges is part of a series of six built by Robert Smith. Three further bridges (1869, listed grade II) in very similar style carry North Road across these water courses as they continue east beyond the estate. From the stream the east drive continues north, curving south through a lime avenue towards the main entrance on the north front of the house. This is approached through a large archway to the entrance forecourt sunk into the hillside.

The north drive gives direct access from Waterford and North Road at the north end of the site. The drive leaves North Road by the graveyard and church of St Michael and All Angels, 500m north of the house. A two-storey brick and timber lodge (Devey 1870, listed grade II) is situated c 50m along the north drive on the east side, where the drive enters the park. The land at the north end of the drive has been developed with C20 housing. The drive south of the lodge is lined by a lime avenue which meets the avenue of the east drive.

A third Victorian lodge, Windyridge Farm (Devey 1870, listed grade II), lies on the south-west boundary of the park, at the entrance to a disused south drive from Bramfield Lane, and is now a farmhouse with surrounding farm buildings. The OS map of 1878 shows the course of the south drive running north across the southern park to meet the east drive east of the house.

When Robert Smith inherited the Goldings estate in 1861 he diverted and reconstructed the Watton Turnpike from its line west of the River Beane to the present position of North Road. He built the series of bridges to carry the road, and the new east drive to Goldings. Smith also diverted Bramfield Lane in 1870 to bring more land into the park to the south and west.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING The house (Devey 1871-7, listed grade II*) lies towards the north of the site, near the top of the hillside. Built for Robert Smith, it is a very large, red-brick mansion in free Tudor style, with two wings; the west, principal wing is attached at an angle to the larger, rambling east service wing with a turret and large square tower. Linked to the west end of the house is a brick orangery/conservatory with a cast-iron trussed roof; the roof material is now slate rather than glass. The forecourt and the north front of the house are set into the hillside, with stone steps leading up the steep slope to the pleasure grounds beyond. The south front is the garden front which enjoys views south down the gentle hillside over the garden, park and out to Hertford in the distance. The south-facing conservatory also overlooks the garden and the view south, although here this is partly obscured by mature ornamental trees.

A water-colour view of the earlier house of c 1800 (reproduced in East Herts Archaeol Soc Newsletter 1958) shows the meadows east of the River Beane (then outside the park) running up to the old mansion: a square, compact, two-storey house with dormers in a deep-hipped roof. This house stood c 200m south of the current house, south-west of the stables with which it seems to have been closely linked both physically and visually. It is possible that it stood where the grass tennis courts lie, south of the stables.

The stables (c 1830, listed grade II) lie 150m south-east of the house and form a courtyard (largely built in). They may incorporate the structure of an earlier stables, of c 1700. The building is constructed of yellow brick with a stuccoed, castellated south-east front incorporating a gothic entrance arch. The stables form an important element in the setting of the current house.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS The garden lies south of the house, aligned with the south, garden front. A raised terrace with retaining walls of grey stone runs along the south front of both wings. A gravel path bisects the terrace, parallel with the west wing of the house, and a path extends from the garden entrance to the steps down to the lawn below the terrace. At the extreme west end is the red-brick, Jacobean chapel (Walter Godfrey 1923, listed grade II). An almost square terrace sits in front of the east, servants' wing. The terraces are mostly laid to lawn. South of the terraces an informal lawn slopes south towards the valley. The lawn is bisected by a path running south-west to north-east across it. South of this path are the remains of a rectangular levelled area with a grass slope from the path down to it. It is now partly tennis courts. The south boundary of the garden is formed by a largely straight, steep grass bank, c 1.5m high. South of this is a large open lawn, used as playing fields. West of the house is a wooded area of pleasure grounds. North of the house a belt of mature trees separates it from the park beyond. Some of the north belt area is used for car parking and a C20 wing extends north from the house into this area. The garden and pleasure grounds have many fine specimen trees including cedars and Wellingtonias.

PARK The park surrounds the pleasure grounds. The north park is open playing fields with sparse trees and clumps. It is bounded by agricultural hedges to the west and north, and by the north drive and its lime avenue to the south and east. The east park is agricultural land sloping east and south to water meadows and the River Beane and the Mole Wood mill race which run through the south end of this area. There are views across the east park to the wooded hillside east of the River Beane.

The south park is the largest and most ornamental park area. It contains several stands of woodland, belts of trees along its perimeter and clumps and single trees. It is largely pasture. The land undulates and, together with the effect of the carefully sited plantings, the eye is drawn across the park towards Hertford. Goldings Canal is prominent west of the River Beane. The 'canal' is a broad stretch of running water, sometimes seasonal, which extends south from the east drive to where it joins the River Beane and leaves the park close to the southern tip, under North Road. The bridges which carry the east drive are also ornamental features in the landscape. An icehouse exists in Ice House Wood.

The sale particulars of 1770 state that 'the situation of the [earlier] mansion is upon a gentle eminence. Before it lies a beautiful vale enriched with a serpentine river, fed by a trout stream, called Beneficial River. The lands are happily varied, the hills are adorned with dropping woods and the town of Hertford perfects this pleasure-giving view'. Comparing the site in 1766 (Dury and Andrews) with the OS 6" series, it appears that Smith used the old Watton Turnpike road as the bed of his Goldings Canal. He tapped the Mole Wood mill race to feed the new, wide, meandering 'river' which was constructed to enhance the view south from the house and garden across the park.

KITCHEN GARDEN Two walled gardens exist, adjacent to each other, situated c 20m east of the house. Initially they related to the earlier house. The northern walled garden (early C19, listed grade II) is surrounded by 3m high red-brick walls with stone copings. Two large, Tudor-style arched gateways are cut in the south and east walls. A range of C19 gardeners' bothies run east from the south-east corner of this walled garden. The southern walled garden is slightly longer, c 100m, and attached to the northern one by its shared north wall. It is enclosed by similar red-brick walls to the north, west and east and is probably C18 or early C19 in origin. Set into the east wall is the gardener's cottage Wych Elms (H S Goodhart-Rendel 1912, listed grade II). This is a red-brick cottage in Vernacular Revival style, single storey with dormers, and an interesting west elevation with a window overlooking the south walled garden. Neither walled garden is under cultivation. Remains of a small orchard exist east of the southern walled garden.

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CHGCG October 2016

OS 6" to 1 mile: 1st edition published 1878 2nd edition published 1899 3rd edition published 1925 OS 25" to 1 mile: 2nd edition published 1898

Description written: 1997 Register Inspector: SR Edited: October 2000

1.3.3 Bayfordbury

A mid C18 and C19 landscape park with pleasure grounds and a notable mid C19 pinetum, surrounding a mid C18 and early C19 country house.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Jane Cottrell and Harriet Baker, daughters and co-heiresses of Jane Aldemare from whom they inherited Bayford manor, sold the estate to Sir William Baker (d 1770) in 1758 (VCH). Sir William was one of the richest and most successful businessmen in England at the time, and was engaged particularly in American trade. He made an advantageous marriage to Mary Tonson, the daughter of Jacob Tonson, a well-known and prosperous publisher and Chairman of the East India Company (1749/50, 1752/3), and co-founder of the Kit-Cat Club in 1700.

Sir William built a house on the former farmland, 1759-62, surrounding it with a landscape park in which a collection of cedars of Lebanon were planted in 1765 as nine-year-old saplings (CL 1925). After Baker's death his son, William II (d 1824), inherited the property, carrying out improvements to the grounds, including the creation of the lake in 1772, and major alterations to the house, 1806-12. Upon his death, William II's grandson, William Robert (d 1896), inherited the estate, creating a pinetum in 1837, with advice from John Claudius Loudon. Many of the early plantings came from noted plant collectors including David Douglas and Hartweg. Further plantings of newly introduced species were made c 1900, many coming from collections by Maries and Captain L Clinton-Baker. Many of the specimens are featured in H Clinton-Baker's *Illustrations of Conifers* (1909-12).

In 1945 the Baker family divided and sold the estate. The John Innes Institute bought the house and surrounding parkland, building various research blocks in the grounds and setting up horticultural trials. In 1967 the house was acquired by Hatfield Polytechnic, and sold again in 1986 as a company headquarters, in which use it remains (1999).

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Bayfordbury lies 2km south-west of the centre of Hertford, at the north edge of the village of Bayford. The c 130ha site is bounded to the north-west by the B158 Lower Hatfield Road, and on the other sides largely by agricultural land. The house and pleasure grounds occupy the north end of a plateau which slopes down across parkland to the north and west, and east into a valley through which the Bayford Brook runs from south to north. The east side of the valley and the level high ground beyond is occupied by further parkland and the pinetum.

The setting is largely rural, with the main London to Hertford railway line close by to the east, and the landscape parks of Panshanger (qv) and Balls Park (qv) lying 2km away to the north-west and north-east respectively. Panoramic views extend from the north-west, entrance front of the house and the west and north parkland, across the agricultural land of the shallow River Lea valley.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The main approach enters the estate off the Lower Hatfield Road, 600m north of the house, at the north tip of the park. Here formerly stood a lodge to the west and an orchard to the east (OS 1883). From here the north drive curves through the park up a shallow hillside, overlooking the park and the Bayford Brook valley to the east, with the pinetum standing on the far hillside, and to the west the west park, with views extending north-west across the Lea valley. The drive passes between two large cedars of Lebanon before arriving at a carriage sweep, set in lawn, overlooked by a portico enclosing the entrance on the north-west front of the house. Further Lebanon cedars flank the house, these probably being part of the 1765 planting. Panoramic views extend north-west across the park and Lea valley from the house.

The west drive enters the park 600m west of the house, off the Lower Hatfield Road, at the two-storey River Lodge (C19), built of red and yellow brick. From here the drive extends east and ascends the hillside overlooking an area of parkland to the south (estate map, 1807, HRO). Some 175m west of the house a spur extends 75m south to the former stable block. The drive continues east, with views north-west from its eastern half, to arrive at the carriage sweep on the north-west front.

A south drive formerly entered the park from the north end of the village of Bayford (OS C19), this drive being now (1999) partly lost and partly used as a farm track. The south drive entered 1.3km south-south-west of the house at a lodge (now gone), extending north to Hook's Grove, an oval area of C18 woodland. Having passed through Hook's Grove, the drive continues north as a track, passing to the east of the lake 250m from the house, before joining the west drive 75m from the house.

In the early C19 (estate map, 1807) the north drive followed a similar course to now (1999), entering at a gateway set back off the road where the Brook widened into a pond, and on the other side of which stood an extensive kitchen garden (now gone). The west drive followed a course at some distance further north than at present (its earlier course still present in the late C19, OS). The south drive also occupied a different course, entering the park south-west of Hook's Grove at the south end of Broadgreen Wood. By the late C19 (OS 1883) the drives had assumed their present courses.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING Bayfordbury (1759-62, altered by Francis Aldhouse 1809-12, listed grade II*) stands towards the centre of the site, surrounded by pleasure grounds. The white-painted and stuccoed house, built in Neoclassical style, consists of a two-storey plus attics central block flanked by single-storey link pavilions in turn flanked by low, two-storey service wings. As built, the central block, of red brick, was flanked by separate service pavilions (originally stables to the south-west and kitchens to the north-east), the gaps being filled in in the early C19 by Aldhouse, when the house was faced in stucco. At that time the single-storey orangery was added to the north-east end of the house, attached to the former kitchen range.

On the south-east, garden front a single-storey portico is flanked by a railed balcony, raised on short iron columns, which extends out along the length of the single-storey links, ending in stairs sweeping down to the garden. A flight of stone steps leads down from the central garden door beneath the portico to the garden. The garden front overlooks the parkland of the wooded Bayford Brook valley to the south and east, with a view of the monumental column at the top of the far hillside in Sailor's Grove.

The stable block (c 1812, probably Francis Aldhouse, converted to domestic accommodation 1990s, listed grade II) stands 150m south-west of the house, on lower ground. The two-storey block of yellow brick surrounds three sides of the stable yard, which is entered via an archway in the north-east range. The yard is closed on the south-west side by a brick wall with piers at intervals, pierced by a central narrow gateway which gives access to a square lawn lying adjacent to the south-west, and beyond this the kitchen garden.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS The pleasure grounds surround the house to the south, east and north, enclosed by the remains of a ha-ha or sunk fence. A broad gravel terrace, overlooked by the balcony, extends along the whole of the south-east, garden front, which it links to the main lawn, which in turn extends south-east to the remains of the ha-ha. The lawn is planted with clumps of shrubs and overlooks the valley and Brook to the east, with a view to the monumental column in Sailor's Grove. The lawn is flanked by the remains of wooded groves containing mature trees and shrub borders which are encircled by paths. The trees include specimens of Atlantic and Lebanon cedars, Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*), Japanese red cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*), Chinese lace bark pine (*Pinus bungeana*) and many mature yews.

The remains of a rock garden constructed by James Pulham, 1845(6 (Garden Hist 1984), lie in the grove to the south-west of the house. The rock garden was formerly planted with a large collection of alpine plants and was very highly cultivated (Gardener's Mag 1909). The John Innes Institute removed much of the rockwork from the rock garden after the Second World War, and since then a car park has been constructed over part of it. Some of the paths still remain winding amongst mature ornamental specimen trees and shrubs. An extensive rose garden which formerly lay close by (*ibid*) has also gone.

The house in the early C19 (estate map) was enclosed by an oval pleasure ground, including the present area of lawn to the north-west by the entrance front, so that the main fronts of the house overlooked broad lawns with long views across the valleys beyond. The house was flanked by densely planted groves, as now (1999), with winding paths through them.

South of the kitchen garden lies the lake, laid out in 1772 by William Baker II when it stood within parkland (estate map), and partly set within early to mid C19 woodland (OS 1883). Several exotic mature specimens stand in the area, including *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Taxodium distichum* and *Libocedrus decurrens*. The lake contains several islands, and is overlooked by the former south drive to the east. A boathouse formerly stood at the south end of the lake (OS 1925). Home Farm stands to the south-west of the lake.

PARK The park surrounds the house and pleasure grounds to the north, east and south, being divided into two unequal halves by the Bayford Brook valley to the east. Much of the park is laid to open arable and has lost its former planting of single trees and clumps, although the areas east of the north drive and east of the Brook are laid to pasture retaining some parkland plantings.

A path leads north-east around the south-east side of the former ha-ha, turning east to continue down the hillside to the Brook, which is crossed by a brick bridge 300m north-east of the house. The Brook is largely enclosed by trees. The path, having crossed the Brook, turns north into the informally planted Clinton-Baker Pinetum, which covers part of the hillside and is encircled by a footpath. A shelter belt of Scots, Austrian and Corsican pines (1840s) extends along the top of the hillside on the east boundary, with a yew thicket (1840s) to the north above the Chalk Dell (formed from a quarry). The collection of fine specimen trees stands between these and the Bayford Brook in the valley, and includes a collection of unusual *Pinus* species, various *Abies*, *Larix* and *Picea* species, and many other conifer species which were recorded in detail by the Clinton-Bakers. Some of the trees are of importance, either because of their size or date of introduction (Hatfield Polytechnic 1980).

A further arm of the path crossing the Brook turns south up the wooded hillside to a plateau, laid largely to pasture divided by overgrown hawthorn hedges and surrounded by woodland, that marking the east boundary being called Sailor's Grove. A 10m high monumental column (c 1804, listed grade II) stands 600m south-east of the house, set a short distance into the Grove and flanked by several mature cedars of Lebanon. It is a stone,

fluted Doric column with an urn at the top, standing on a tall pedestal, with many memorial inscriptions to members of the Baker family, in particular Edward Baker (d 1796), Henry Baker (d 1804) and Charles Adolphus Baker (d 1822). From the column a view extends north-west across the plateau and valley beyond to the garden front of the house.

The park was laid out initially in the mid to late C18, and is shown in completed form (except for the Pinetum) in the estate map of 1807. A perimeter path running through shelter belts at that date encircled the park to the west, south and east, the park itself being planted with many clumps, copses and single trees.

KITCHEN GARDEN The octagonal, brick-walled kitchen garden (early C19, listed grade II), presently disused (1999), lies 250m south-west of the house, beyond the stable yard, with which it is contemporary, and from which it is separated by a square lawn. At the centre of the lawn lies a circular stone pond with a central stone fountain basin, probably the work of the Pulham company, 1845/6 (Garden Hist 1984). The lawn is bounded to the south-west by the kitchen garden, to the north by ground formerly occupied by orchards, with long views across the Lea valley, and to the south by the lake. The kitchen garden is entered from the stable yard lawn via a gateway, flanked by brick and flint piers and set centrally in the north-east wall, which is aligned with the gateway in the south-west wall of the stable yard. Three doorways in similar style are set into the other long sections of the walls. Formerly (OS C19) the kitchen garden extended beyond the west and north walls, and the present stable yard lawn was also cultivated around the central pond. A range of glasshouses stood against the outer side of the south-east wall, with further glasshouses sited east of the stables and against the south-east wall of the stable block. By the early C20 the stable yard lawn had been laid out with a rose garden (CL 1925), and by the late C20 the glass had gone.

REFERENCES

Gardener's Magazine, (11 December 1909), pp 969/70 H Clinton-Baker, Illustrations of Conifers (1909-12) Country Life, 57 (17 January 1925), pp 92-9; (24 January 1925), p 125 JF, The Clinton-Baker Pinetum, (January 1978) [copy on EH file] Conifers at Bayfordbury, (Hatfield Polytechnic Field Station 1980) Garden History 12, no 2 (1984), pp 140/1

Maps A map of an estate belonging to William Baker esq ..., 1758 (Hertfordshire Record Office) Dury and Andrews, A topographical Map of Hartford-shire, 1766 Map of estates situate in ... Hertingfordbury, Bayford, ... belonging to William Baker, 1807 (Hertfordshire Record Office) A Bryant, The County of Hertford, 1822

OS 6" to 1 mile: 1st edition published 1883 2nd edition published 1899 3rd edition published 1925 OS 25" to 1 mile: 2nd edition published 1898 3rd edition published 1923

Description written: August 1999 Register Inspector: SR Edited: October 2000

2. Parks and Gardens Listed as of Local interest by Hertfordshire Gardens Trust for Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (also Camfield Place, BirdsPlace/EssendonPlace, Bedwell Park)

2.1. Holwell Court

Present Name of Site Holwell Court Historic Name

Parish/Town Essendon

National Grid Reference of Principal Building: TL276 104

Present Area (approximate): 77 acres

Statement of Significance

An Edwardian gentry estate with carefully designed parklands with key views in the 18th century manner to Essendon Church and Hatfield House. Much of the planting remains and the estate is fairly intact though in multiple ownership

Brief Description

Farmland until the 20th century, this small estate was laid out to take advantage of views towards Essendon church and Hatfield Park but with other aspects carefully screened with shelter belts of trees. Typical Edwardian garden features such as house, loggia, rock garden, sunken garden and shrubberies were provided as well as kitchen garden, small farm and grazing land. The house is one by Ernest George who adapted or built other houses in Hertfordshire (North Mymms, Putteridgebury, Poles Park). Many of these had noted garden designers; Gertrude Jekyll, William Robinson, Robert Glendinning, although no named designer has been identified as yet for Holwell Court.

In the 1980s the walled kitchen garden was removed. The house is now divided into flats and the southeastern field has been used as a Traveller Site. Former estate cottages, farmery, engine house and lodges remain although their use has changed

Principal Building: c. 1900 by Sir Ernest George in Queen Anne Revival style, of red brick with tile roof. H plan. 2 storeys and attics. Garden elevation has 6-column Doric loggia between projections, a typical feature of the era, bringing the gardens into the dwelling space.

Approach(es): . Principal drive from Hertford Road (A414) through 2 lodges, single-storey of redbrick with slate roofs approached the house from the north west but also gave access to the farm and kitchen garden, situated to the north of the drive. A secondary drive from Holwell Lane flanked by 2 lodges ran northwards through parkland to approach the house from the south. The drive has now disappeared although the entrance between the former lodges is still extant

A much earlier track ran from Holwell Lane near Holwell Manor (formerly Holwell Farm) northwards across fields to join with the Hertford Road. Traces of this are still visible in the landscape. This would appear, on the 1766 Dury and Andrews map to join the southern end of the southwestern avenue from Cole Green House.

Stable block/other utilitarian buildings: The west and east farm buildings of the Farmery shown on the 1921 estate plan have gone/been replaced but the Engine House that is shown on the plan still remains, although now adapted for use as stabling.

Pleasure grounds: These are c. 10 acres with a south-facing terrace raised on grassed banks with lawns leading to a ha-ha dividing them from the parkland. Typical Edwardian features such as a sunken garden on the east, shrubberies- now reshaped, woodland remain. The former tennis court is now a private garden associated with Holwell Court Cottage, the former Garden House/Tennis Pavilion. The rock garden to the west of the house has gone, although a large rock that is on the boundary with Holwell Court Cottage might indicate its original location. The Lime avenue from the north front to the site of the walled garden is still extant.

Walled Kitchen Garden: This was of c.4 acres and included with sheds, glasshouses, fruit walls and fruit store. Adjoining were an orchard and the outer kitchen garden. This has now disappeared with the walls demolished c.1980 and the orchard has been largely cleared of fruit trees

Park: Originally of c 40 acres. The southwest field is now a Traveller site. Originally with a narrow shelter belt along the Hertford road, much tree planting has augmented this to make it much wider. The original sinuous tree belt on the south eastern boundary has also been augmented and has lost its sinuous outline. These belts are composed of ash, oak, alder and willow. Elsewhere clumps and specimen trees have disappeared though the shrubberies dividing pleasure grounds from parkland are largely intact. The swimming pond and stream remain in the central shrubbery belt running north to south.

A key design feature of 2 tree clump on the Holwell Lane boundary frame a view across to Hatfield House and there is a view due south through a break in the tree belt to Essendon church. Both these key views, in an otherwise sheltered site, remain.

Important people associated with site: Resident: Architect: Ernest George Designer:
Principal Uses: House divided into residential flats Farm Travellers site
Public Access/Rights of Way: None
Designations: House Grade II Green Belt <i>Landscape Character Area: 25 Welwyn Fringes</i>
Sources of information: Report available from HGT
Site visited by: Hertfordshire Gardens Trust Date: 2016

2.2. SherrardsWood/Digswell Place/Digswell Park

Present Name of Site Sherrardswood Park, Digswell Park, Digswell Lake and Digswell Place	Historic Name Digswell Rectory Digswell Place
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Parish/Town **Welwyn Garden City**

National Grid Reference of Principal Building: TL 230 140

Statement of Significance

An 18th century landscape by Lancelot Brown, incorporating an earlier manorial layout and much developed on Reptonian lines in the early 19th century by Nathaniel Kent and Repton (informally). One of a series of landscapes owned by the Cowper family lying along the valley of the r. Mimram with contributions from both Brown and Repton. Although much altered by the development of Welwyn Garden City enough remains to be read as a coherent landscape of some distinction. The line of Digswell Rise echoes the north-west boundary of the park as shown on the 19th century maps, with remnants of old woodland on the east side. Elsewhere, field boundaries are preserved in the line of back garden boundaries.

Brief History

In 1415 Sir John Perient bought the manor of Digswell and built a new house. The medieval manor consisted of a moated manor house adjacent to the parish church with fish-ponds (still extant) in the river valley and a warren with keeper's house and enclosures in the park. The 1599 survey shows woodland to the south west (including a warren and warrener's lodge). After various changes in ownership it was, in 1656, sold to Humphrey Shallcross, who had made his money as a scrivener or money-lender in London. Digswell was one of a number of estates in Hertfordshire which he purchased. It remained in the family until 1770 when it was left to the husband, Richard Willis, of his niece. Lancelot Brown was engaged at Digswell and paid £1,100 for work carried out between June 1771 and February 1773 for Willes [sic]. The formal gardens of the early 18th century (Dury & Andrews 1766) were removed but the walk to the Rectory (now Digswell Place) was left, possibly as the main house is adjacent to the parish church

Much of the Brownian work appears around Digswell Place, with parkland clumps and the planting of Temple Wood and a plantation in 1771. More Brownian work around Digswell House, where the formal gardens were removed, but the formal Monks Walk to the Rectory (now Digswell Place) was retained and the grove of Sweet Chestnuts were kept. The knoll on which the House sits was enhanced with earthworks to emphasize the oak and thorn knolls and the curve of the valley which sweeps down to the river Mimram

Willis's daughter Elizabeth sold the estate to Henry Cowper, guardian of Edward Spencer Cowper in 1786. The earl assumed possession of it by 1801 and it remained in the family until the death of the 7th earl in 1905.

A great deal of improvement after 1804 under ES Cowper with a new house (Digswell House) and landscape, including a lake formed by damming the r. Mimram. From at least 1800 Cowper visited landscapes laid out by Repton and Repton visited Digswell following the preparation of his Red Book for Panshanger (a neighbouring estate owned by Earl Cowper). Nathaniel Kent was employed in 1812. The avenues and Brownian parkland and pleasure ground round house were preserved but added a new house (by Samuel Wyatt) was built in 1807 and a new landscape centred on Digswell House. The lake created 1809 (diary entry by ES Cowper 1810). At same time Sherrardspark Wood was felled and replanted with oak and sweet chestnut (mentioned in estate book of 1808). The major rides cut through it are shown on the Ordnance Survey Drawing. In 1820 a new conservatory was built at Digswell House, but following the death of ES Cowper in 1823, Digswell House was let out. There were no new developments until the building of the village at east end of lake in 1850 and the building of Digswell viaduct for the Great Northern Main line railway in 1848-50, spanning the Mimram valley to the north east of Digswell House.

Much of the Cowper estate, including Digswell was sold in 1919 to pay death duties and Ebenezer Howard acquire 1688 acres (including Digswell) for the new Welwyn Garden City. With the development of Welwyn Garden City the area became developed and the house became an Arts Centre and is now private housing. The A1000, Bessemer Rd (1950s) now cuts Digswell Park off from the lake.

Brief Description

Digswell House is sited on a promontory overlooking the valley of the Mimram and the ground sweeps down to the north, east and south. To the west the land rises with the tree-lined Monks Walk to the former rectory (Digswell Place) and the woodland (Sherrardspark Wood) with formal rides laid out between 1766 and 1805. Digswell Park (around Digswell House) lies mainly in a valley running west to east on the south of the house towards Digswell Lake from which it is now separated by a main road. Traces of the pre-Brownian (a grove of Sweet Chestnuts) and Brownian landscape are still extant but the early 19th century pleasure grounds have gone and the eastern end of Digswell Lake has silted up. There is also a large layering hornbeam coppice, similar to those at Stanmore and Wrotham Park, possibly by Brown. A small proportion of the park is urban open land as Digswell Park and a Cricket and Bowls ground. Monks Walk connects Digswell House, adjacent to the parish church, with the Rectory (now Digswell Place) on the small plateau above between the Mimram and

Lee. Some rows of 18th century beech trees remain as does a ditch near the southern end, separating the Walk from the Cricket Ground, which could be the remains of a sunk fence.

Digswell Place (Rectory) has remains of Brownian park planting and earthworks. The historic rides cut through Sherrardspark Wood in the late 18th century are also still in use. Linear earthworks in the Park may be from the original wood and the remains of the Harpenden to Welwyn railway cutting are still traceable, as well as some swallow holes. Elsewhere the Digswell Place parkland has been replaced with small paddocks for horses, although some Brownian planting remains west of Malms Wood, reminiscent of Brown planting at Cole Green. Temple Wood, Planted by 1771 remains at the southern end of Monks walk.

Digswell Lake was created in 1809 and completed with weir, sluices etc by 1810 (diary entry by ES Cowper. The woods surrounding them are sweet chestnut with oak and thorn but date is unknown. The large layering Hornbeam coppice at the end of the lake is similar to those at Stanmore and Wrotham, both Brown sites. Between World War I and II it was rented to a local bailiff who bred trout and let it out for fly fishing. In 1957 the Digswell Lake Society was formed and leased the lake and 17 acres of ground from Welwyn Garden City Development Corporation. In 1985 it purchased the freehold from the New Towns Commission.

Sherrardspark Wood

Woodland with historic rides in a star-shape cut through it, connected with Digswell Place and Digswell House, via Monks Walk. The majority of the site is SSSI and it is known for its sweet chestnut, fine oak and fine hornbeam trees. Linear earthworks exist within it, possibly from the earlier coppice wood. Remains of the Luton to Welwyn railway cutting survive as a path (now a public bridleway) and the site has some swallow holes. The wood is shown on the 1599 Norden survey and was probably the 140 acres of coppice at Digswell mentioned in the 16th century. In 1771 it was felled, at the same time that parkland planting was being carried out round the site. It was replanted with oak and sweet chestnut and rides cut through (visible on the 1805 Ordnance Survey Drawing). Some of the 18th century carriage rides still survive with the designed halting places to admire views, especially in the Temple Wood. In the 1850s work was in hand to lay a railway line through the park, which was opened in 1860. This was closed in 1966 and the tracks removed. In 1919 the site was part of the land purchased for Welwyn Garden City and it remains part of the amenity woodland for the city.

Capability Brown was paid for work here in 1771-73, in laying out a park around Digswell House. Following purchase of the estate by the Cowpers, a Reptonian landscape was with Nathaniel Kent being employed from 1812 and visits from Repton. In 1919 the land was sold to Ebenezer Howard for Welwyn Garden City with some land being developed and Sherrardspark Wood and Digswell valley being retained as public open spaces. It has been suggested that Gertrude Jekyll was involved with Didswell [sic] Place in 1920.

The curve of Digswell Rise reflects the ancient park boundary and woodland

Principal Building: Digswell House,

Circa 1807. Built by Samuel Wyatt for Lord Cowper after the demolition of the mediaeval mansion a few years previously. A classical block of 2 storeys in brown stone, rendered and painted, with a replaced hipped slate roof. The south front is enriched by a very shallow portico of 4 tall Ionic columns that run the whole height of the house and support an undecorated entablature. Above this runs a low parapet,

A subsidiary house, now named Digswell Lodge, built by Humphrey Shallcross for his daughter in the mid 17th century is found in Digswell Rise.

Digswell Place (formerly the Rectory)

Formerly the vicarage. Main block of the house early C19, with additions of the later C19/early C20. Main portion of 2 storeys in pink brick

Approaches:

Lodges

Digswell Park Lodge. 2 –storey mid-late 19C lodge on the approach from Tewin, adjacent to the Lake
1-4 Digswell Park Road. Mid-late C19 lodges to Digswell House on the Welwyn approach, arranged in semi-detached pairs. One storey and attics in brick

Stable block:

Bailliff's Cottage Mid-late C19 estate building to Digswell House. One storey and attics in brick, on Digswell Park Road, and outside the original park boundary

Pleasure grounds, Digswell Place:

Jane Brown has stated that Gertrude Jekyll was involved with the pleasure grounds at Didswell [sic] Place in 1920 but no evidence to support this has been found

Walled Kitchen Garden, Digswell Place:

The walls of the kitchen garden at Digswell Place

<p>Important people associated with site: Owners: Humphrey Shallcross, Earls Cowper Landscape Designers: Lancelot Brown, Nathaniel Kent, Humphry Repton, Gertrude Jekyll (attrib)</p>
<p>Principal Uses: Housing, amenity woodland, urban open space</p>
<p>Public Access/Rights of Way: Free access through the woods and much of the urban open land round Digswell House, Monks Walk and other areas. No access to the Lake</p>
<p>Designations: Area of Archaeological Significance: AAS27 Pentley Close Grade II: Digswell House, Digswell Place, 1-4 Digswell Park Road (former Lodge) , Digswell Park Lodge, Digswell Lodge, St John's Church Green Belt Wildlife Site: WS55 Sherrardspark Wood, WS52 Digswell Lake, WS60 Malams Wood, WS61 Digswell Place Park, WS70 Digswell Place Meadow, WS72 Pastures south of Malms Wood & north of Digswell Place Farm, WS73 Dismantled Railway East of Sherrardspark Wood, WS68 Temple Wood Vale Open Space Landscape Character Area:</p>
<p>Sources of information: Report available at HALS</p>
<p>Site visited by: HGT Date: 2015</p>

2.3 Bush Hall

Present Name of Site

Bush Hall

Historic Name

Bush Hall

Parish/Town

Hatfield

National Grid Reference of Principal Building: TL 238 100

Present Area (approximate) 35 Acres

Statement of significance:

Undeveloped remains of one of the historic landscape parks along the r. Lee together with remains of the walled garden and avenues along the mill leet. More evidence may be sub-surface which could throw light on the relationships with Hatfield Park, the ancient Mill at Mill Green as well as Bush Hall itself. It provides a green buffer between Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City

It is linked with William Looker, an eminent gardener in late 17th century, working at Hatfield House and with

Brief Description

Bush Hall lies on a grassy plain beside a leet stream branching off from the River Lea. Hatfield house lies about half a mile to the south. The present building at Bush Hall was first mentioned in 1673, and was altered in 18th century. The gardens were laid out by 1766 (Dury & Andrews map, 1766). A variety of owners with London connections occupied the estate until 1836, since when the Marquises of Salisbury have owned the site. The main approach to the house is by a drive leading from a slip road off Hatfield to Hertford road (A414). Stables lie to the south-east of the house. The north-east wall of the kitchen garden (19th century) is still standing. A small brick building to north of house may be a 19th century brewhouse. There is the footing, possibly of flint and ironstone, of a gazebo at the end of a walk. The presence of an icehouse under a mound (point grid ref.: TL 23892 10067) has been suggested in an HHER. There may be tree pits along the leet stream. In the 1970s, a slice of the park on the south-west, including a lodge made way for major alterations to the A414.

<p>Important people associated with site: Marquis of Salisbury: Owners from 1836 William Looker: son of Roger Looker, eminent gardener at Hatfield House and Somerset House (London) and co-founder of the famous Brompton Park Nursery. William erected buildings on the site before 1673 and was an acquaintance of Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn Beatrix Potter: Summer resident in 1884 (also at Woodfield Essendon 1883, Bedwell Lodge 1891. Her grandparents lived at Camfield Place, Essendon)</p>
<p>Landscape Character Area: 065 Middle Lea Valley West</p>
<p>Principal Uses: Hotel and restaurant (closed)</p>
<p>Public Access/Rights of Way: None</p>
<p>Designations: Grade II: House</p>
<p>Sources of information: Report available from HGT</p>
<p>HHER Number: MHT T3336</p>
<p>Site visited by: HGT Date:</p>

3. Parks and Gardens on East Herts District Council *Historic Parks and Gardens* Supplementary Planning Document

	Cole Green Park
<i>Landscape Character Area:</i>	66 (Cole Green & Hertingfordbury)
<i>Description:</i>	Deer park dating from 1749 worked on by 'Capability' Brown.
<i>Site:</i>	Digswell
<i>Landscape Character Area:</i>	43 (Mimram Valley Parklands)
<i>Description:</i>	1771-3 linked to Panshanger Park with Capacity Brown landscape along the River Mimram, serpentine lake, now part of Welwyn Garden City.
<i>Site:</i>	Epcombes, Hertingfordbury
<i>Landscape Character Area:</i>	66 (Cole Green and Hertingfordbury Settled Farmland)
<i>Description:</i>	Formal Gardens between the house and the river appear on the Dury & Andrews map of 1766, together with a very large enclosure to the east of the house but it is not clear whether this is a walled garden or canal or some other feature. (If canal it could be similar to that recently discovered at Broadfields). The 1 st edition OS also shows a drive from the lodge on the Hertford Road to the house. The 2 nd edition OS shows this carriage drive from the lodge on the Hertford road with a sweep to the western entrance and a service road branching off the main drive to the east of the house. A site visit showed interesting 'bumps' in the area of the D&A formal gardens which could be the remains of the paths/ other features.
<i>Site:</i>	Hertingfordbury Park, Hertingfordbury
<i>Landscape Character Area:</i>	66 (Cole Green and Hertingfordbury Settled Farmland)
<i>Description:</i>	One of the earliest records of deer parks in this area dating from 1285. Informal parkland now part of private school grounds, extensive woodlands.
<i>Site:</i>	Marden Hill, Hertford Road, South of Tewin
<i>Landscape Character Area:</i>	43 (Mimram Valley Parklands)
<i>Description:</i>	Significant gardens show on all maps from 1766 onwards. C18 classical house, informal parkland, affected by gravel extraction, now in multiple occupancy.
<i>Site:</i>	Roxford Grotto Wood, Hertingfordbury
<i>Landscape Character Area:</i>	65 (Middle Lea Valley West)
<i>Description:</i>	Roxford Manor was owned by the Quaker Brassey family. A description of the garden between 1739-65 describes sunny gravel walks, then yew-hedged walks spiralling up an artificial hill to a summer house and down to a cave under the summer house (c.f. Scotts Grotto, Ware, also owned by a Quaker family). Then followed a dovecote, an aviary of singing birds, a fish pond and the grotto. The grotto was paved with pebbles and walls were studded with shells. The main chamber was provided with a cold bath and heated dressing room and furnished with statues, (images of Death and Time), fountains and giochi d'aqua. This was demolished by 1789 and the landscape reshaped in the style of nearby Bayfordbury. The gardens may date from the early 18 th century and may have been overlaid with a Rococo element in the mid-18 th century. This was very popular in Europe but less so in England where it died out in the 1780s (when these gardens were re-fashioned). Bought by Norman

	<p>Baker 1801 who extended landscape. There are extensive earthworks in Grotto Wood, which are the remains of the grotto as well as the three spring-fed ponds from the original layout and the summer house mound. Woods recently been restored by Groundwork Trust (2005).</p>
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<i>Site:</i>	Woolmers, Piper's End, Letty Green
<i>Landscape Character Area:</i>	66 (Cole Green and Hertingfordbury Settled Farmland)
<i>Description:</i>	<p>Consisting of a brick house dating from 1796-1802 with a later one-storeyed colonnade, the house is set on the northern slopes of the Lea Valley, looking out over the grazing meadows along the river and framed by trees. Informal parkland, extensive woodland along River Lea. Now polo club.</p>

4. Parks and Gardens of Local Historic Importance Listed by Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record

4.1. Marden Hill

HER Number: 9587
Type of record: Landscape
Name: PARK AND GARDENS, MARDEN HILL, TEWIN

Summary

Landscape park and pleasure grounds at 18th century house, which replaced an earlier building

Grid Reference: TL 281 140
Map Sheet: TL21SE
Parish: Tewin, East Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire
Map: [Show location on GoogleMaps](#)

Monument Types

HA HA (Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1900 AD)
LANDSCAPE PARK (Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1900 AD)
ORNAMENTAL GARDEN (Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1900 AD)
WALLED GARDEN (Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1900 AD)

Protected Status

Listed Building (II) 356260: OCTAGONAL STORE AND WALL ABOUT 75 METRES EAST OF MARDEN HILL HOUSE

Listed Building (II) 356259: WALLED GARDENS ABOUT 30 METRES NORTH OF MARDEN HILL HOUSE

Listed Building (II) 356256: STATUE OF SPANIEL BELOW STEPS TO SOUTH OF MARDEN HILL HOUSE

Listed Building (II) 356257: HA HA WALL ABOUT 65 METRES SOUTH SOUTH WEST OF MARDEN HILL HOUSE

Full description

Significant gardens are shown on all maps from 1766 onwards <1>. Vertical photomaps are of poor quality but show a walled garden in a wooded area <2>.

For the 18th century house, see [\[13029\]](#).

In the grounds a red brick wall, built c.1790, marks a ha ha between the garden and the park; the park had two lime avenues planted c.1700. These have been partly replanted and are overgrown. The kitchen garden walls also date to c.1790, as does an octagonal dairy. The wall next to the dairy is 17th century, but the upper parts have been renewed at later dates <3, 4, 5>.

<1> Rowe, Anne, 1997, *Historic parks & gardens of Hertfordshire: pilot research project, RNO 1718 p34*(Unpublished document). SHT563.

<2> HCC vertical photomapping, 1990, *Sheets 507-8* (Aerial Photograph). SHT4158.

<3> HCC Planning Dept, 1979-82, *Historic parklands and gardens in Hertfordshire; record sheets & supplementary material* (Unpublished document). SHT8294.

<4> Centre for the Conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens, *Survey and inventory form 1: site recommendations, 1985* (Unpublished document). SHT7200.

<5> *Listed Buildings description* (Digital archive). SHT6690.

Sources and further reading

<1> Unpublished document: Rowe, Anne. 1997. Historic parks & gardens of Hertfordshire: pilot research project. RNO 1718 p34.

<2> Aerial Photograph: HCC vertical photomapping, 1990. Sheets 507-8.

<3> Unpublished document: HCC Planning Dept. 1979-82. Historic parklands and gardens in Hertfordshire; record sheets & supplementary material.

<4> Unpublished document: Centre for the Conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens. Survey and inventory form 1: site recommendations. 1985.

4,2 Bedwell Park

MEDIEVAL DEER PARK AND POST-MEDIEVAL PARK AND GARDENS, BEDWELL PARK, ESSENDON

Summary

Large early 15th century deer park, with complex later history

Grid Reference: TL 284 074

Map Sheet: TL20NE

Parish: Essendon, Welwyn Hatfield, Hertfordshire

DEER PARK (Medieval to Post Medieval - 1066 AD to 1900 AD)

KITCHEN GARDEN (Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1900 AD)

LANDSCAPE PARK (Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1900 AD)

ORNAMENTAL GARDEN (Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1900 AD)

Associated Events

Evaluation at Bedwell Park, Essendon, 2006

Full description

Bedwell Park was a medieval deer park dating from 1406, when John Norbury was granted a licence to make a park of 800 acres (323.8 ha.) <2>. A significant post-medieval park and gardens were in existence by 1766 <4> and shown on the 1st ed. OS map (c.1810). Humphrey Repton is believed to have carried out some work on the park but there is no Red Book <1>.

The 1990 aerial photomap <3> shows a golf course with tree belt, avenue, clumps of trees, ponds, lakes; also the ?skeleton of formal garden next to the house, and a walled kitchen garden; also a major example of Pulhamite, a fernery with a cliff designed to conceal a wall and root-house, built for R C Hanbury in 1866 <5>. For the house, see [11513].

NGR = approximate centre of designated area.

The 1860s rebuilding included the construction of a walled kitchen garden within view of the house. Its presence was disguised by the erection of a rocky cliff made of Pulhamite (the artificial stone invented by Pulham & Co of Broxbourne [5709]), in front of the brick wall. This is one of the finest pieces of landscaping work carried out by the company in the county, and it would pass as a natural stone formation to the casual observer <12>.

In 1700 Chauncy <8> published a print showing formal gardens, ponds, and trees, and said that the then owner, Thomas Atkins, 'has much adorned and beautified this seat with pleasant Gardens' <7, 8>. The park covered 200 acres, 'one of a flurry of 15th-century emparkments created to the SE of Hatfield' <9>. In 1707 the estate was sold to Richard Wynne, a Lincolnshire gentleman, and remained in his family until 1765 when it was sold to Samuel Whitbread, the brewer. A plan drawn up by James Crow at the time of the 1765 sale <6, 9> shows 'a largely geometric landscape with formal gardens and a number of avenues'; this was probably the creation of the Wynne family <9>. By the early 19th century all this had been replaced by 'a neat landscape park, with perimeter belts, casually scattered trees and winding carriage drives', presumably work done for Samuel Whitbread. The estate was sold again after his death in 1796 <9>.

The early 15th century deer park was 'a very large park' along a small tributary of the river Lea, with the sides of the valley rising steeply <10>. John Norbury was from Cheshire; after a successful military career in the Hundred Years War he bought the manors of Bedwell and Little Berkhamsted, and enclosed nearly 20% of the parishes of Essendon and Little Berkhamsted for his new park. However, much of this land was probably 'open heath and woodland, as the soils were largely infertile'. Sir William Say appears to have enlarged the park further c.1492; it was largely for deer, but also had a rabbit warren. The park was reduced to 200 acres in the early 17th century, the south end being sold (mostly becoming Bedwell Lodge Farm [10960]), and gradually became a post-medieval landscape park with avenues and ornamental groves. The drive approaching the house from the north is likely to have been originally a public road, diverted westwards, but it is unknown when this was done; <10> suggests it was in the late 17th century to accommodate new features. The park expanded again in the early 19th century. Some boundary banks survive, along Cucumber Lane, and north of Woodcock Farm <10>.

Evaluation north and south of the house in 2006 found that much of the ground had been truncated and disturbed <11>.

Prince, Hugh, 2010, *Land use and landownership: a recent history of parks in Hertfordshire; Landscape History 31/1*, 53-72, - p66 (Article in serial). SHT4000.

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<2> Cantor, Leonard, 1983, *The medieval parks of England: a gazetteer* (Bibliographic reference). SHT6459.

<3> HCC vertical photomapping, 1990, Sheet 701 (Aerial Photograph). SHT4158.

<4> Dury & Andrews, 1766, *A topographical map of Hartford-shire, from an actual survey...* (Cartographic material). SHT3062.

<5> Banister, Kate, 2007, *The Pulham family of Hertfordshire and their work; IN Herts garden history: a miscellany* (ed Anne Rowe), 134-54 (Article in monograph). SHT16941.

<6> HCC Planning Dept, 1979-82, *Historic parklands and gardens in Hertfordshire; record sheets & supplementary material* (Unpublished document). SHT8294.

- <7> Fremantle, David, 1949, *Bedwell Park in 1700; Herts Countryside vol.4 no.14, 52-3* (Article in serial). SHT6028.
- <8> Chauncy, Sir Henry, 1700, *The historical antiquities of Hertfordshire* (Bibliographic reference). SHT2425.
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- <10> Rowe, Anne, 2009, *Medieval parks of Hertfordshire, - p90-92; Map 16* (Bibliographic reference). SHT6026.
- <11> Taylor, Andy, 2006, *Bedwell Park, Essendon, Hatfield, Herts: an archaeological evaluation 20.12.00, RNO 2753* (Report). SHT1856.
- <12> *Information from Anne Rowe, 7.8.2002* (Verbal communication). SHT4974.

Sources and further reading

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- <1> Unpublished document: Rowe, Anne. 1997. Historic parks & gardens of Hertfordshire: pilot research project. RNO 1718, p8.
- <2> Bibliographic reference: Cantor, Leonard. 1983. The medieval parks of England: a gazetteer.
- <3> Aerial Photograph: HCC vertical photomapping, 1990. Sheet 701.
- <4> Cartographic material: Dury & Andrews. 1766. A topographical map of Hartford-shire, from an actual survey....
- <5> Article in monograph: Banister, Kate. 2007. The Pulham family of Hertfordshire and their work; IN *Herts garden history: a miscellany* (ed Anne Rowe), 134-54.
- <6> Unpublished document: HCC Planning Dept. 1979-82. Historic parklands and gardens in Hertfordshire; record sheets & supplementary material.
- <7> Article in serial: Fremantle, David. 1949. *Bedwell Park in 1700; Herts Countryside vol.4 no.14, 52-3.*
- <8> Bibliographic reference: Chauncy, Sir Henry. 1700. *The historical antiquities of Hertfordshire.*
- <9> Article in serial: Spooner, Sarah. 2009. 'A prospect two fields' distance': *rural landscapes and urban mentalities in the eighteenth century; Landscapes 10/1, 101-22. Figs 5-9.*
- <10> Bibliographic reference: Rowe, Anne. 2009. *Medieval parks of Hertfordshire. - p90-92; Map 16.*
- <11> Report: Taylor, Andy. 2006. *Bedwell Park, Essendon, Hatfield, Herts: an archaeological evaluation 20.12.00. field evaluation. RNO 2753.*
- <12> Verbal communication: *Information from Anne Rowe. 7.8.2002.*

4.3 Woolmers Park

COUNTRY HOUSE (Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1900 AD)

LANDSCAPE PARK (Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1900 AD)

Associated Events

Building recording at Woolmers Park, Woolmers Lane, Letty Green, 1999-2000

Protected Status

Listed Building (II*) 356185: WOOLMER'S PARK WITH ATTACHED OUTBUILDINGS AND WALL

Full description

A two-storey rectangular house with courtyard and colonnades. The name may come from John Woolmer who lived in the parish of Hertingfordbury in the late 13th century. In 1518 the farm of Wolmers was left to Joyce Benstede by her husband Sir Edward. Neither the Seller nor Oliver maps (1675-6) show any buildings on the site, so it is possible that no substantial house yet existed. John Warburton's 1749 map shows a country seat called Woolmans. During the 1760s I. Ware built a new house on the site for a 'Mr Godfrey' <1>. In 1796-1802 the third Duke of Bridgewater rebuilt it. This can be seen in 18th century brickwork in the east facing the courtyard elevation and the main garden façade. The house was then sold to the Duke of Sutherland who in turn sold it to Sir John Aubyn. He spent £35,000 on additions to the house and created a broad water with an island and new bridges along the river Lea (over which the house looks). In 1820-21 Sir Gore Ouseley had the house remodelled and added a dining room.

The 1838 tithe award <3> lists the estate as belonging to Rear Admiral Hotham and consisting of a mansion with gardens, a home farm, and arable, pasture and coppice. In 1929 the Count and Countess of Strathmore bought the estate; in World War II the house was used as a maternity unit for evacuated mothers. In 1947 a fire destroyed the east wing, reputedly built by Robert Adam <1>.

The grounds include a Gothic flint summerhouse <2>. For the farm, see [11127].

Between 1838 <3> and 1880 <4> the small park was extended westwards by diverting the road on its western boundary.

Brushe, John, 1977, *The Charnock drawings; Herts Archaeology 5, 194-6, 1780s view* (Article in serial). SHT9709.

<1> Garwood, Adam, 2001, *Woolmers Park, Woolmers Green, Letty Green, Herts: building survey and archaeological monitoring, RNO 1026* (Report). SHT3834.

<2> HCC Planning Dept, 1979-82, *Historic parklands and gardens in Hertfordshire; record sheets & supplementary material* (Unpublished document). SHT8294.

<3> *Tithe map and award, Hertingfordbury, 1838 (map & award)* (Cartographic material). SHT1377.

<4> *OS 25 inch map, 1st edition, 1880* (Cartographic material). SHT8116.

Sources and further reading

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<1> Report: Garwood, Adam. 2001. *Woolmers Park, Woolmers Green, Letty Green, Herts: building survey and archaeological monitoring. building recording. RNO 1026.*

<2> Unpublished document: HCC Planning Dept. 1979-82. *Historic parklands and gardens in Hertfordshire; record sheets & supplementary material.*

<3> Cartographic material: *Tithe map and award. Hertingfordbury, 1838 (map & award).*

<4> Cartographic material: *OS 25 inch map, 1st edition. 1880.*

4.4 Roxford Grotto

HHER Number: 9456
Type of record: Monument
Name: FORMAL GARDEN EARTHWORKS, GROTTO WOOD, ROXFORD, HERTINGFORDBURY

Summary

Site of 18th century garden with grotto and other curiosities

Grid Reference: TL 301 105

Map Sheet: TL31SW

Parish: Hertingfordbury, East Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire

Monument Types

ORNAMENTAL GARDEN (Post Medieval - 1501 AD to 1900 AD)

Associated Events

Field survey at Grotto Wood, Roxford, 1995

Protected Status

Area of Archaeological Significance

Scheduled Ancient Monument SM 33606

Scheduled Ancient Monument 33606: BAROQUE GARDEN IN GROTTO WOOD

Full description

Earthworks of a mound, three ponds, reputed grotto, and raised perimeter walk in wood, once with fine views, in grounds of Roxford Farm and apparently 18th century; surveyed in 1995 for the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust. Documentary references <1, 4> refer to a gravel walk, a spiral mound, fishponds, cold bath and a grotto. The garden is late for a formal layout, and this survival may indicate that the fashion may have been more common in the 18th century than previously realised. However, these earthworks are a rare survival. The garden was destroyed in the period 1775-89.

'Mondy July 4th (1757). Mr Bracey's, Roxford, a Banker in the city saw his Mount, wch is some little distance fro his house - made into a Garden - on the Top - a Grotto wth water works, a great Nr of curious shells - all Gothic' <3>. The description suggests that by the mid 18th century a prospect mound was turned into a fashionable grotto with shellwork.

For the house, built for John Brassey in the early 18th century, see [\[18131\]](#). The grotto garden was one feature in his grounds; the medieval moat [\[681\]](#) was employed as another.

HCC Planning Dept, 1979-82, *Historic parklands and gardens in Hertfordshire; record sheets & supplementary material* (Unpublished document). SHT8294.

<1> Currie, Christopher K, 1995, *An archaeological survey of garden earthworks in Grotto Wood, Roxford, Hertingfordbury, Herts, RNO 486* (Report). SHT2223.

<2> *Scheduled Monument description, January 2002* (Scheduling record). SHT9990.

<3> Harris, George William, (*Extract from the*) *Diary of the Revd George William Harris, rector of Eggescliffe, Durham, 1757; Hertfordshire's Heritage 22 (April 1996), 12-15, 1757 eyewitness description* (Article in serial). SHT16893.

<4> Bagenal, Patience, 2007, *A lost garden at Roxford; IN Herts garden history: a miscellany* (ed Anne Rowe), 78-85 (Article in monograph). SHT8271.

<5> Currie, Christopher, 2003, *An archaeological survey of garden earthworks in Grotto Wood, Roxford, Hertingfordbury; Herts Archaeology 13 (1997-2003), 101-10* (Article in serial). SHT1338.

Sources and further reading

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<2> Scheduling record: Scheduled Monument description. January 2002.

<3> Article in serial: Harris, George William. (Extract from the) Diary of the Revd George William Harris, rector of Eggescliffe, Durham, 1757; Hertfordshire's Heritage 22 (April 1996), 12-15. 1757 eyewitness description.

<4> Article in monograph: Bagenal, Patience. 2007. A lost garden at Roxford; IN Herts garden history: a miscellany (ed Anne Rowe), 78-85.

<5> Article in serial: Currie, Christopher. 2003. An archaeological survey of garden earthworks in Grotto Wood, Roxford, Hertingfordbury; Herts Archaeology 13 (1997-2003), 101-10.

Related records

[18131](#) Part of: ROXFORD HOUSE, ST MARY'S LANE, HERTINGFORDBURY (Building)

[681](#) Related to: MOATED SITE, ROXFORD, HERTINGFORDBURY (Monument)

5. Landscape Character Areas

These include many listed buildings and their settings and also provide settings for the historic parks and gardens detailed above.

42. Tewin, Dawley and Lockley Estate Farmland

43. Mimram Valley Parklands

44. Panshanger Parkland

45. Welwyn Fringes

46. Hatfield Park

47. Essendon-Brickendon Farmed Slopes

65. Middle Lea Valley West

66. Cole Green and Hertingfordbury Settled Farmland

6. Conservation Areas and Character Areas

6.1 Essendon Village

6.2. Digswell Village (<http://www.welhat.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1077&p=0>)

6.3 Hertingfordbury Village

6.4 East End Green

6.5. Tewin Village

7. Heritage at Risk Register for EHDC

HERTINGFORDBURY Name and Address: Panshanger Orangery, Lafarge Aggregates Ltd, Birchall Lane, Cole Green Hertford,

Heritage Asset Number: 1054057. Date of photograph: 23/10/2012

Description in brief: Grade II.

Mid C19 former Orangery and Conservatory to Panshanger House for the 7th Earl Cowper in classical style with rich distinctive detailing. Formal gardens once lay south of Orangery leading on to landscaped grounds and Mimram valley laid out by H. Repton, 1799-1801. Panshanger House demolished mid-20th century; footprint still exists nearby. Works required: A clear vision for the future of this unique building is needed. Should be returned to its original use. A potential candidate for consideration of associated 'enabling development' possibly involving replacement of Panshanger House. Preliminary contact with owner has agreed minimal works to prevent further erosion including removal of vegetation. Further strategic discussions needed.

March 2016 Update: No change.